

OFFICE OF
REVENUE

January 16, 2002

#2/Reg for
Refund
03-03-02

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request a refund for \$500 which was enclosed with patent application, serial number 10/036042. I had enclosed check #131 for \$500 with the application. The application had been sent by Express mail on November 9, 2001 but received by the USPTO in Jan. 2002. I had been told by the Post Office that it was going to be returned to me and not sent to the USPTO (see below). I would also like to abandon this application and have it returned to me so it can be destroyed (10/036042). The number from the Express mail shipping receipt is ET205777375US.

Several days after mailing the above application on November 9, 2001, I checked the USPS website to make sure the application had been received by the USPTO. There was no confirmation of delivery. I went to the post office to check. They had no information to offer me. The following week I found out that the application had been rejected by the USPTO Post office and sent away for decontamination. Later I learned from the Post Office that the zip code I had sent the application to at the USPTO was now closed. I asked the Post Office what was going to happen. They said that my application would be returned to me. I could then resend it to the alternate USPTO zip code. They also informed me that it could take several months before it was returned to me.

At that point I decided that I would prepare a new application and have it hand delivered. I assumed that the one I mailed on November 9, 2001 would be coming back to me and I would destroy it when it arrived. I made one change to the figures (a deletion of the 19th page) and sent the new application to my nephew, Dan Burton, who was working in D.C. as a State Department intern. Dan in turn hand delivered it to the USPTO. It subsequently was given a filing date of 12/03/01 and assigned the number 09/998638. I would like to retain this filing date and number as my original regular patent application. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

Read Taintor

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